



AUGUST 2 BALLOT PROPOSAL INCLUDES MILLAGE TO SUPPORT ADA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY

On August 2, 2022, Ada residents will have the opportunity to vote on a public safety millage request because the previous millage expired in December 2021. The proposed millage would provide funding for the operation of the Ada Township Fire Department, including maintenance, equipment and training, and for the Kent County Sheriff Department's police protection in Ada Township.

The proposed five-year millage, at a rate of 1.4 mills, would include a renewal of the previous five-year millage at the rate of 0.9322 mills and an increase of 0.4678 mills.

For example, a home with a taxable value of \$200,000 will pay \$280 annually (\$1.40 per \$1,000 of taxable value). This represents an increase of \$93.56 for the homeowner as compared to the previous millage rate of .9322 mills. If approved, the new millage would raise an estimated \$1,631,290 in the first year.

Here's a closer look at the operations of both fire and police and what these funds would support.

Ada Township Fire Department

The Ada Township Fire Department has experienced a 16.1% increase in call volume over the past five years, for a total of 686 dispatches in calendar year 2021. Currently the department has three full-time fire fighters in addition to the Fire Chief. In 2019 the fire department staffing model changed from Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. service to 24/7 coverage. This means that there is at least one person at the station 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

Funds from the new millage would provide for:

- The addition of one full-time fire fighter to cover our township.
- Replace one pumper truck in 2023 and save funds (\$1.3 million) to replace two other trucks that are nearing the end of their service life in the coming years.
- Upgrading medical services to EMT levels. Currently our firefighters must hold a First Responder certification.
- Ongoing firefighter training.
- Other required equipment purchases, like hoses and firefighter gear.



Kent County Sheriff Department – Ada Township

Funds from the new millage would provide for the addition of one Deputy dedicated to Ada Township. Ada Township has seen an increase for services by 10 percent from 2020 to 2021, with an estimated 19-minute and 35-seconds response time.

Examples of how an additional Deputy could improve police service in Ada Township include:

- Decreased police response times to calls for service.
- Increased number of educational and safety awareness events and crime-prevention training: active shooter, human trafficking and fraud, among others.
- Increased police presence and traffic control at high-volume, family-friendly, community events like Beers at the Bridge, the Ada Chili Cookoff and Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys.
- Increased guidance in neighborhood watch and business watch programs.



Below is the official language that will appear on the August ballot.

**ADA TOWNSHIP POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION
MILLAGE PROPOSAL - RENEWAL AND INCREASE
FOR A TOTAL OF 1.4 MILLS**

Shall the expired previously voted increase in the tax rate limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Ada Township of 0.95 mills (\$0.95 per \$1,000 of taxable value), as reduced to 0.9322 mills (\$0.9322 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required rollbacks, be renewed and increased by 0.4678 mills (\$0.4678 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a total of 1.4 mills (\$1.40 per \$1,000 of taxable value) annually for five (5) years, 2022 through 2026, inclusive, to provide funds for police protection within the Township and for maintenance, equipment, and operation of the Township's Fire Department?

If approved and levied, this millage would raise an estimated \$1,631,290 in the first year of levy. All or a portion of the revenues from this millage will be disbursed to the Kent County Sheriff's Department for police services within Ada Township. To the extent required by law, a portion of the revenues from this millage will be captured within the district of and disbursed to the Ada Township Downtown Development Authority and the Ada Township Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

YES _____

NO _____